

§ 27.72

an existing airport facility has not already done so, the recipient shall submit a transition plan meeting the requirements of § 27.65(d) of this part to the FAA no later than March 3, 1997.

[61 FR 56424, Nov. 1, 1996, as amended at 68 FR 51391, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 27.72 Boarding assistance for aircraft.

(a) Paragraphs (b)–(e) of this section apply to airports with 10,000 or more annual enplanements.

(b) Airports shall, in cooperation with carriers serving the airports, provide boarding assistance to individuals with disabilities using mechanical lifts, ramps, or other devices that do not require employees to lift or carry passengers up stairs. Paragraph (c) of this section applies to aircraft with a seating capacity of 19 through 30 passengers. Paragraph (d) of this section applies to aircraft with a seating capacity of 31 or more passengers.

(c)(1) Each airport operator shall negotiate in good faith with each carrier serving the airport concerning the acquisition and use of boarding assistance devices for aircraft with a seating capacity of 19 through 30 passengers. The airport operator and the carrier(s) shall, by no later than September 2, 1997, sign a written agreement allocating responsibility for meeting the boarding assistance requirements of this section between or among the parties. The agreement shall be made available, on request, to representatives of the Department of Transportation.

(2) The agreement shall provide that all actions necessary to ensure accessible boarding for passengers with disabilities are completed as soon as practicable, but no later than December 2, 1998, at large and medium commercial service hub airports (those with 1,200,000 or more annual enplanements); December 2, 1999, for small commercial service hub airports (those with between 250,000 and 1,199,999 annual enplanements); or December 2, 2000, for non-hub commercial service primary airports (those with between 10,000 and 249,999 annual enplanements). All air carriers and airport operators involved are jointly responsible for the timely

49 CFR Subtitle A (10–1–07 Edition)

and complete implementation of the agreement.

(3) Boarding assistance under the agreement is not required in the following situations:

(i) Access to aircraft with a capacity of fewer than 19 or more than 30 seats;

(ii) Access to float planes;

(iii) Access to the following 19-seat capacity aircraft models: the Fairchild Metro, the Jetstream 31, and the Beech 1900 (C and D models);

(iv) Access to any other 19-seat aircraft model determined by the Department of Transportation to be unsuitable for boarding assistance by lift, ramp or other suitable device on the basis of a significant risk of serious damage to the aircraft or the presence of internal barriers that preclude passengers who use a boarding or aisle chair to reach a non-exit row seat.

(4) When boarding assistance is not required to be provided under paragraph (c)(3) of this section, or cannot be provided as required by paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section (e.g., because of mechanical problems with a lift), boarding assistance shall be provided by any available means to which the passenger consents, except hand-carrying as defined in 14 CFR 382.39(a)(2).

(5) The agreement shall ensure that all lifts and other accessibility equipment are maintained in proper working condition.

(d)(1) Each airport operator shall negotiate in good faith with each carrier serving the airport concerning the acquisition and use of boarding assistance devices for aircraft with a seating capacity of 31 or more passengers where level entry boarding is not otherwise available. The airport operator and the carrier(s) shall, by no later than March 4, 2002 sign a written agreement allocating responsibility for meeting the boarding assistance requirements of this section between or among the parties. The agreement shall be made available, on request, to representatives of the Department of Transportation.

(2) The agreement shall provide that all actions necessary to ensure accessible boarding for passengers with disabilities are completed as soon as practicable, but no later than December 4,

2002. All air carriers and airport operators involved are jointly responsible for the timely and complete implementation of the agreement.

(3) Level-entry boarding assistance under the agreement is not required with respect to float planes or with respect to any widebody aircraft determined by the Department of Transportation to be unsuitable for boarding assistance by lift, ramp, or other device on the basis that no existing boarding assistance device on the market will accommodate the aircraft without a significant risk of serious damage to the aircraft or injury to passengers or employees.

(4) When level-entry boarding assistance is not required to be provided under paragraph (d)(3) of this section, or cannot be provided as required by paragraphs (b) and (d) of this section (e.g., because of mechanical problems with a lift), boarding assistance shall be provided by any available means to which the passenger consents, except hand-carrying as defined in 14 CFR 382.39(a)(2).

(5) The agreement shall ensure that all lifts and other accessibility equipment are maintained in proper working condition.

(e) In the event that airport personnel are involved in providing boarding assistance, the airport shall ensure that they are trained to proficiency in the use of the boarding assistance equipment used at the airport and appropriate boarding assistance procedures that safeguard the safety and dignity of passengers.

[66 FR 22115, May 3, 2001]

§ 27.75 Federal Highway Administration—highways.

(a) *New facilities*—(1) *Highway rest area facilities*. All such facilities that will be constructed with Federal financial assistance shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the accessibility standards referenced in § 27.3(b) of this part.

(2) *Curb cuts*. All pedestrian crosswalks constructed with Federal financial assistance shall have curb cuts or ramps to accommodate persons in wheelchairs, pursuant to section 228 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 (23 U.S.C. 402(b)(1)(F)).

(3) *Pedestrian over-passes, under-passes and ramps*. Pedestrian over-passes, under-passes and ramps, constructed with Federal financial assistance, shall be accessible to handicapped persons, including having gradients no steeper than 10 percent, unless:

(i) Alternate safe means are provided to enable mobility-limited persons to cross the roadway at that location; or

(ii) It would be infeasible for mobility-limited persons to reach the over-passes, under-passes or ramps because of unusual topographical or architectural obstacles unrelated to the federally assisted facility.

(b) *Existing facilities—Rest area facilities*. Rest area facilities on Interstate highways shall be made accessible to handicapped persons, including wheelchair users, within a three-year period after the effective date of this part. Other rest area facilities shall be made accessible when Federal financial assistance is used to improve the rest area, or when the roadway adjacent to or in the near vicinity of the rest area is constructed, reconstructed or otherwise altered with Federal financial assistance.

[44 FR 31468, May 31, 1979, as amended by Amdt. 27-3, 51 FR 19017, May 23, 1986. Redesignated at 56 FR 45621, Sept. 6, 1991]

§ 27.77 Recipients of Essential Air Service subsidies.

Any air carrier receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation under the Essential Air Service Program shall, as a condition of receiving such assistance, comply with applicable requirements of this part and applicable section 504 and ACAA rules of the Department of Transportation.

[61 FR 56425, Nov. 1, 1996, as amended at 68 FR 51391, Aug. 26, 2003]

Subpart C—Enforcement

SOURCE: 44 FR 31468, May 31, 1979, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 56 FR 45621, Sept. 6, 1991.

§ 27.121 Compliance information.

(a) *Cooperation and assistance*. The responsible Departmental official, to the